

What is claimed:

1. A process for treating a cellulose material with a predetermined concentration of preservative and a fluid in a mixture comprising the steps of applying the mixture to the cellulose material under pressure to enable at least some of the preservative in the mixture to be absorbed within the material, thereby depleting the concentration of the preservative in the mixture, replenishing the preservative depleted mixture with more preservative and circulating the replenished mixture under pressure to the cellulose material that is being treated.
2. A process according to the Claim 1 comprising the further steps of heating the mixture to a predetermined temperature and heating the replenished mixture to said predetermined temperature.
3. A process according to the Claim 1 further comprising the steps of placing the cellulose material in a vacuum, and flowing the mixture into the vacuum with the cellulose material.
4. A process according to Claim 1 further comprising the step draining the mixture from the cellulose material.
5. A process according to Claim 1 comprising the further step of pressurizing the cellulose material with the mixture to a pressure of about 250 pounds per square inch.
6. A process according to Claim 2 wherein said heating step comprises heating the mixture to about 180°F.
7. A process according to Claim 3 wherein said step of placing the cellulose material in a vacuum comprises the step of drawing a vacuum of at least 27 inches of mercury.

8. A process according to Claim 1 wherein the cellulose material comprises a wood product.

9. An apparatus for treating cellulose materials with a preservative and a fluid in a mixture, comprising a work tank for holding the fluid and the preservative in a predetermined concentration, a pump in selective fluid communication with said work tank for drawing the mixed fluid and preservative from said work tank, a pressure vessel for accommodating the cellulose material, said pressure vessel being in communication with said work tank through said pump, a pressure relief valve in communication with said pressure vessel and said work tank to enable said mixed fluid and preservative to return to said work tank in response to said pump, and means for replenishing said returned fluid and preservative with more of the preservative, whereby said pump circulates said replenished mixed fluid and preservative to said pressure vessel.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a heater for heating the fluid and the preservative in said work tank to a predetermined temperature.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a vacuum pump in fluid communication with said pressure vessel to draw selectively a vacuum within said pressure vessel.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising a discharge pump for selectively withdrawing the fluid and preservative from said pressure vessel and returning the fluid and preservative to said work tank.

13. A process for treating cellulose material with a predetermined concentration of preservative and a fluid in mixture comprising the steps of heating the mixture to a predetermined temperature, applying the heated mixture to the cellulose material under pressure

to enable at least some of the preservative in the mixture to be absorbed within the material, reheating at least a portion of said applied mixture and reapplying said reheated mixture portion to the cellulose material.

14. A process for treating a cellulose material with fluid and a suspension of a predetermined concentration of preservative in a mixture comprising the steps of applying the mixture to the cellulose material, recirculating at least a portion of the mixture and agitating said mixture portion in order to maintain the preservative in the suspension.